

So special, in fact, that she was selected as one of the athletes to carry the American flag that had flown over the world trade center in the opening Olympic ceremonies. She persevered to win her silver medal despite an injured hamstring.

If boys and girls across our country are looking for a role model, all they need to do is look to central Ohio and Lea Ann Parsley. She's a true champion, both in the Olympics and in life.

BATTERED IMMIGRANT FAMILY RELIEF ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Battered Immigrant Family Relief Act.

Violence against women is a profound and extremely pervasive problem, striking across economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and across all age groups. It is an epidemic that affects not only women, but children and families as well.

We, in Congress, should be proud that we were able to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act last session. I was particularly pleased with the inclusion of critical provisions of relief to battered immigrant women that came from my bill, H.R. 3083, the Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act. However, there are still important groups that were left out of last year's negotiations. That is why this legislation is so critical.

There are still battered immigrants, like asylees and the elderly, who are forced to remain in abusive relationships, unable to appeal for protection from law enforcement and the courts for fear of deportation. The Battered Immigrant Family Relief Act will allow them to safely escape their abusers without fear of deportation or other negative immigration consequences. This legislation would also provide a safety net for battered legal immigrants and their children by allowing them access to health insurance, food, and other benefits required to escape their abuser and gain economic self-sufficiency. We can no longer allow immigration status to be used as a tool of control in abusive situations.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort and this bill. While there is still even one woman out there who endures violence, our work will not be complete.

RECOGNIZING PEACE CORPS DAY 2002

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention that tomorrow, Friday, March 1, 2002, is Peace Corps Day. Tomorrow throughout the country, former volunteers will bring their experiences to work, school, places of worship and recreation. They will share with their colleagues, friends and community members the story of their years

as volunteers and how it changed and shaped their lives. Since 1961, more than 163,000 volunteers have served in 135 countries and, in so doing, have served their country and the cause of peace and friendship across the globe.

This year, former volunteers will also be carrying with them the message of the President of the United States—that the Peace Corps is more important and relevant in the world today than it has ever been. I applaud the President's initiative to double the number of Peace Corps volunteers to 14,000 by the year 2007, and to bring Americans to parts of the globe where volunteers have yet to serve—parts of the globe that Americans need to know more about, and which need to know more about Americans.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, every day is Peace Corps day for me. My experience as a volunteer in Colombia is one that I draw upon and share with everyone I meet. Tomorrow will be no different.

I urge all Members of Congress, whether they were volunteers or not, to honor the Peace Corps tomorrow, and to share the spirit of volunteerism and international peace with everyone they come in contact with that day.

REPORT ON NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled by a recent report on National Public Radio linking the Traditional Values Coalition with the Anthrax letters that were sent to Senators TOM DASCHLE and PATRICK LEAHY. I am outraged by this biased and unsubstantiated attack.

I have personally known the leadership of the Traditional Values Coalition for many years. Even if I was not personally acquainted with members of TVC, I would still find this type of malicious and biased reporting completely outrageous.

NPR linked an organization that represents 43,000 churches across the nation to criminal activity with absolutely no evidence or fact. As the basis for their accusation, NPR cited a press release that TVC issued criticizing Senators DASCHLE and LEAHY for a policy that they disagreed with. If a policy disagreement is enough to speculate on a taxpayer-funded national radio program that a group has tried to murder members of Congress, then the list of suspects for this unspeakable crime would take NPR days to report. Instead NPR chose to mention only TVC in connection to the Anthrax with absolutely no evidence linking them to the crime. This is slander, and NPR should be held accountable for such blatantly biased reporting.

TRIBUTE TO CARLOS J. BADGER

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carlos J. Badger on the occasion for his

100th birthday and to honor him for a lifetime of service and community leadership.

Carlos J. Badger has had a distinguished career as a lawyer and he is currently the oldest practicing attorney in Stanislaus County, California. His legal career started after he graduated from Stanford University Law School. He argued his first case before the United States Supreme Court in 1949. His love for the law and concern for his clients keeps him still practicing today.

Carlos J. Badger also distinguished himself as a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He was a classmate with Admiral Hyman Rickover when he graduated in 1922. He served honorably until he was forced to leave the Navy due to tuberculosis. He reenlisted during World War II and passed the California Bar while in the service. He is the oldest living veteran in Stanislaus County that served in both World Wars.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and privilege to honor Carlos J. Badger for his service to our country and his dedication to the people of Stanislaus County. He is a shining example of professionalism in the legal profession. His selfless acts and professionalism reflect great credit upon himself.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to rise and join me in honoring Mr. Carlos J. Badger.

RECOGNIZING RUTH SWIGGETT'S LIFELONG COMMUNITY SERVICE TO EL SERENO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and extend birthday wishes to an inspirational African-American woman from my district who has demonstrated a life long commitment to the community of El Sereno. For several decades, Ruth Swiggett has been a pillar in one of the most diverse communities in my district. The life of Ruth Swiggett takes on monumental significance as we will be celebrating her 99th birthday on Friday.

Ruth Swiggett has worn many hats in her lifetime—wife, mother, and community activist. She is the co-founder of the El Sereno Coordinating Council and has also served as advisor and president of the El Sereno Seniors. She has also been heavily involved with the El Sereno Youth Center, a community-based organization that fosters an educational enriched program and provides an after-school literacy based technology center for the children of the surrounding school community. As a proud Benefactor of the El Sereno Youth Center, Ruth has always worked tirelessly to help raise funds and coordinate supplementary educational resources for this important youth center.

Our nation is always in search of positive and meaningful role models to enrich our lives and foster innovative approaches that embrace positive character and virtue. One need not look any further than the community of El Sereno—for there is a sweet, caring woman who continues to make monthly visits to the El Sereno Youth Center where she celebrates every holiday with the children from the neighborhood who love and respect her.